

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner states that claim 1 as previously amended did not meet the requirement of a Jepson-type format. As was pointed out in applicants' last reply, claim 1 was presented in a modified form of a Jepson claim. In any event, the claim recited a "valve" and the prior art applied by the Examiner does not relate to a valve.

Nevertheless, the claims have been amended to render this issue moot. As amended, the claims now recite a quick-acting valve comprising, inter alia, a valve opening, a valve member movable relative to the valve opening for controlling flow through the valve opening, and a coil supplied by a voltage source for effecting movement of the valve member relative to the valve opening. Consequently, the remaining features of the independent claims are disposed in combination with valve components.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and § 103

In the latest Office Action, the claims have been rejected as being anticipated by or unpatentable over US 4,998,177 (Takizawa), US 4,705,322 (Yiannoulos) and/or US 5,164,872 (Howell). None of these references has been found to have anything to do with a valve. For at least the reason, the claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by these references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The claims recite still further features not found in a combination similar to that claimed. Inasmuch as the claims are allowable at least the above-noted reasons, the Examiner's comments in respect thereof need not be addressed and this should not be construed to be an acquiescence in the contentions made by the Examiner.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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